

A<sup>2</sup> plurality of ground contacts of a counterpart connector.

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel claim 5.

Please amend claims 1, 6 and 7, as follows:

Claim 1 (Amended). A flexible connector having a fitting portion for being connected with a counterpart connector, said flexible connector comprising:

*AB* a plurality of flexible conductive wires arranged on a plane and parallel to each other, said wires extending in a predetermined direction to have end portions;

a flexible reinforcing <sup>new</sup>metallic plate member placed at one side of said plane to reinforce said flexible conductive wires, said flexible reinforcing member having a contact <sup>new</sup>portion;

an insulator holding said flexible conductive wires and said flexible <sup>new</sup>reinforcing member to make said fitting portion in cooperation with said end portions and said <sup>new</sup>contact portion; and

coupling means connected to said insulator and said flexible reinforcing member for mechanically coupling said insulator to said flexible reinforcing member, said end portions and said contact portion being brought into contact with said counterpart connector when said fitting portion is connected with said counterpart connector. <sup>new</sup>

6. (Amended) A flexible connector as claimed in 3, wherein said flexible reinforcing member has at least one elongated slit extending in said predetermined direction.

7. (Amended) A flexible connector as claimed in claim 3 wherein said counterpart connector includes a ground contact, said flexible reinforcing member having a ground part for coming in contact with said ground contact.